Public Health gets the usual provision for continuing its activities while enhanced provisions have been made under Ayurveda for the opening of four more Ayurvedic hospitals and six new Vaidyasalas. According to the wishes expressed in the council a full-fledged hospital with an inpatient ward of a few beds will be soon opened at Ernakulam. At Vilvattam a new Vaidyasala is proposed to be started for running which Sir K. Ravunny Menon has offered a donation of Rs. 10,000. The donation of Sir K. Ravunny Menon for this Vaidyasala, of Mr. Kattakayom for the new Ward at Chalakkudi are examples worthy of emulation by all who can afford it. The manufacture of medicines and their sale in the Rama Varma Central Ayurvedic Hospital is becoming a very popular measure.

Public works.—The Public Works department gets an enhanced allotment of Rs. 4·19 lakhs over the revised estimate of Rs. 13·55 lakhs and various works of public utility have been programmed for the next year. Due to the increased cost of materials and labour it has been found impossible to maintain the roads satisfactorily with the usual allotments and hence an increased provision of Rs. 1·80 lakhs has been made under road maintenance. Liberal provisions have been made under Irrigation Original Works-with a view to stimulate food production-the more important of which are the Kambalathara Reservoir, the bunds in Elamkulam, Protection of Kari Nilams in Amballur and Keecheri Villages, the Puthur river diversion scheme, the Vettuveli Bund and the Lift Irrigation scheme at Desamangalam. A sum of Rs. 0·75 lakh has been allotted for continuing the work of constructing groynes in the coastal area for prevention of sea erosions. A provision of over Rs. 1 lakh has also been made for the construction of an additional tank in Ernakulam for the storage of Alwaye water. A small beginning was made in 1118 to provide play grounds in schools and in continuance of this programme an increased allotment of Rs. ·30 lakh has been made in the next year's budget.

Panchayats.—As adverted to by the Hon'ble the Minister in the last budget session and in furtherance of the Village Courts Bill passed by this House, the Panchayat courts have been separated from the department of Panchayats and constituted under a separate head of department designated as Registrar of Village Courts. Provision has been made for constituting more courts next year and with their constitution all the Villages of the State outside Municipal limits will be under the jurisdiction of one Village Court or other. It can be hoped that these courts will be of useful service to our village folks.

In spite of the transfer of these courts to a different head of account costing Rs. 0·50 lakh, the Panchayat department has been given the usual allotment of Rs. 4·04 lakhs. A special contribution of Rs. 1·85 lakhs has been given from the Revenue Reserve Fund mostly for the continuance of the intensive programme of 'irrigation' begun last year and this contribution has been made non-lapsable as in previous years. The Panchayats have generally been allowed to carry out all the works departmentally and adequate advances are also given to them for this purpose. It is up to them now to make best use of the lump allotments and the increased facilities now given to them to the lasting benefit of the villagers entrusted to their stewardship.

Socio-Economic Services

Passing on, I now come to the Socio-economic services like Co-operation, and Uplift of the depressed classes. Of Co-operation I have already spoken and there remains Uplift of the depressed classes. Though the budget estimate for the current year was fixed at Rs. 0·71 lakh, the revised estimate rose to Rs. 0·81 lakh and and we have budgetted for the coming year Rs. 0·89 lakh. More scholarships for students from depressed classes have been provided for their collegiate education; again, a sum of Rs. 5,000 has been provided out of the special contribution from Revenue Reserve Fund for development of cottage industries in depressed classes colonies. The usual provisions are made for colonies and educational services.

Collection Services

There is not much for me to dilate upon the provisions made under what is known as "Collection services" *viz.* Land Revenue, Excise, Customs, Forests and Tramway, Registration, Anchal, Stamps and Income-tax. The prospect of local manufacture of salt which was under investigation by a late officer of the Madras salt department has been found to be hopeful and a lump provision of Rs. 0·60 lakh has been made for working out the scheme the details of which will be expounded by the member for Excise when his turn comes. Anchal rates have been slightly raised and this is expected to bring some additional income. The growing volume of work in the Income-tax department as reflected in the larger receipts, etc., has, as has been already indicated by me elsewhere, necessitated the organisation of a new Income-tax office with an officer on Rs. 150—200 and the necessary staff. The high income anticipated from the department may necessitate larger refunds which mainly account for the increase in the budget

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly